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SURVEY SHOWS HUGE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HEALTH CARE

Health Reform Is Addressing These Problems; Republicans Would Make These Barriers Worse

Today, the Commonwealth Fund released their biennial health insurance survey. The results show the plight of millions of Americans who try to buy health coverage on their own:

- 52 million American adults were uninsured at some point in 2010, up from 38 million in 2001;
- Only 25 percent of Americans who lost their employer-sponsored health insurance were able to find another source of coverage;
- 75 million Americans did not get needed health care in 2010, skipping treatment or tests because of costs;
- 73 million Americans reported problems paying their medical bills or paying off medical debt.

Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, commented on the report's findings:

Ranking Member Stark: "This report exposes the huge problems in the current system that the Affordable Care Act will address. While health reform has already helped millions of Americans through consumer protections in the Patients' Bill of Rights and expanded coverage options, more help is on the way as the Act is fully implemented. Unfortunately, Republicans want to repeal reform, which would exacerbate the problems highlighted in this report."

For the full report, please visit: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Blog/2011/Mar/Recession-Leads-to-Insurance-Loss-Health-Reform-to-Help.aspx>

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